

where baseball is played they felt the same excitement and the same enthusiasm that we did.

To both Mark McGwire and to Sammy Sosa, we say congratulations and thank you for a wonderful season. Mr. Sosa has some more games to play with the Chicago Cubs. But I did not want this moment to pass without asking this body to consider acting on something that I think is a good idea. Actually, I read about it on the sports page. Bernie Miklasz' column in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch suggested it. I talked to my friends at the St. Louis Cardinals and they have been thinking about it. You see, there is an interstate highway that runs through St. Louis, interstate 70—a very fortuitous number, given the feat that Mr. McGwire has achieved.

There are some of us—we don't want to raise a question, be nitpicking—who think he actually hit 71, if you count one in Milwaukee. But we are willing to pass on that one and say that there were 70 home runs that were hit. I am going to propose a measure today to designate a portion of interstate 70 in Missouri as the Mark McGwire Interstate Route 70; through St. Louis County and St. Louis City, to recognize the man who has not only brought baseball back to the top of everybody's mind and heart, but has done a tremendous amount for the community as well.

This, I think, is a small measure for us to undertake. We are contacting our colleagues in the House to ask for their support. The mayor of St. Louis has indicated his support, and we are asking others to join with us. We hope to have clearance later on today, if we can obtain clearance to pass it in wrap-up.

We also invite additional cosponsors. I have three who wish to cosponsor it to recognize this tremendous feat and to designate this in honor of the man who has really brought the thrill back to baseball and has shown that human beings have tremendous talent.

I send to the desk a bill to designate the Mark McGwire Interstate Route 70.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, before being referred, that the bill be held at the desk to seek clearance from the minority side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, has Senator BOND finished?

Mr. BOND. Yes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, in a moment I am going to ask consent on something, but I thank Senator BOND and congratulate him for what he did today. I don't know if we can do anything that is enough in response to the marvelous baseball year that Mark McGwire and others have given to the American people.

I suggest that in an America that has grown so cynical about anything, wasn't it a marvelous thing to see how the people responded to the genuine-

ness, the frankness, the decency of both Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa? Just remember, on a number of those very important home runs, those people who caught that ball, without one moment's hesitation—until right at the end, of course—they said the ball belongs to him; they weren't trying to get rich. It was just absolutely marvelous for the United States to see that kind of thing happen.

Then to see the friendship between two people who are really at war in a very civil and different kind of way to break this title, which both of them did, which has been there for 37 years, and see how they related to each other. I think they have become genuine friends while they have proceeded, each in their individual way, to try to break one of the most important and difficult athletic standards in all of organized athletics worldwide.

I believe if the Senate understands what has happened, they are going to approve that very soon. I commend the Senator for it, and I hope Mark McGwire and his family understand the reason for you doing this and why we are probably going to unanimously accept it. I thank the Senator.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business and then proceed to a unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESTORING CONFIDENCE TO WORLD FINANCIAL MARKETS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the Federal Reserve today decided to cut interest rates, and this is a very important step toward restoring confidence and stability in the world's financial markets. It shows that the world's policymakers are taking an active role in ensuring that financial contagion does not spread further. It is also an insurance policy against further damage to the U.S. economy from international events which currently are out of our control.

However, the U.S. Federal Reserve cannot resolve the current financial crisis alone. Investors are shunning the emerging markets because of a heightened sense of the risk that is there. In order to get money flowing to these regions again, nations must improve their banking regulations and must make information about their financial systems more available. This will assure investors and will help resolve much of the current crisis.

As policymakers, we should aid the Fed's effort to restore international confidence by approving the International Monetary Fund's request with appropriate amendments. We should also remain confident that the Fed will continue to act in a way that ensures maximum U.S. long-term growth, as they have done in the past and, as I gather, they decided to do today.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 4060

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I note there is a minority Member on the floor. I would not make this request if there was not.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4060; that there be 40 minutes for debate, with 30 minutes under the control of Senator GRAHAM from Florida; and that the remaining 10 minutes be equally divided between Senator REID of Nevada and myself, as ranking member and chairman, respectively, managers of the bill. I further ask unanimous consent that upon the conclusion or yielding back of time, the conference report be adopted and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, on behalf of another Democratic Senator, I must respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I had hoped the Senator would have stated the name of the Senator, because he has already talked to us, so we all know who it is.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I say to my friend, he can mention the name because he knows more than I do. I don't know the name.

Mr. DOMENICI. Distinguished Senator HARKIN is the Senator who told me he is going to object. He is not here, so the Senator from Montana is objecting.

I say to the Senate—in a way to the absent Senator HARKIN—frankly, this is a completed conference report on one of the required annual appropriations bills. From what I understand, there is no objection to this bill. From what I understand, it passed the House 389 to 25.

We are all engaged in trying to get the appropriations bills passed because that is our duty. We are supposed to have them finished before the fiscal year ends, and there are constant complaints that we don't get it done.

Essentially, tomorrow is the end of the year. We worked very hard, Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, to get this bill done, to meet it, have it within our allocation so it does not break the budget, to do it in the way that most probably will get a Presidential signature.

The Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the entire Department of Energy, both defense and non-defense, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—they cannot help Senator HARKIN. They are all in this bill. They should get their funding. They can't help Senator HARKIN solve the problem of the labor, health, and human services bill, which the Senator from Iowa thinks needs a further allocation of resources in order to accomplish what he, as ranking member, thinks should be done.